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JANUARY 1892.

Maryland Farmer

AND

NEW FARM.

OUR 29TH YEAR.

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The 29th year of the publication of the Maryland Farmer will commence with the January number, 1892. We are desirous of inaugurating a new, strong, aggressive business policy with this year

The better to carry out this purpose we want a Partner to take charge of the Business Department of the Paper. The especial work will be to oversee the employment of Solicitors and Canvassers and have charge of the collections connected with the Paper and the Job Printing Office. Such a Partner will receive a generous return for capital invested and for services rendered. To one desirous of stepping into an established Business, with immediate recompense, and large prospect of increase, this is an opportunity seldom equalled.

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A great future is before the Maryland Farmer if its business affairs can be taken in charge by a man of energy and push who will devote himself to that work. The present proprietor will be pleased to hear from any party who can fill this position. A comparatively small sum will be all the investment needed, and the Maryland Farmer can easily be made THE Household Journal of this entire section of country. All necessary information will be freely given. H. R. WALWORTH, Editor and Proprietor.

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—DEVOTED TO—

Agriculture, Horticulture, Live Stock and Rural Economy.

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

AND NEW FARM.

Vol. XXIX. BALTIMORE, January 1892. No. 1.

For the Maryland Farmer.

HOME IN JANUARY.

Sitting by the fireside, so thoughtful and still
I hear the wind moaning,
I think of the storm king and the wintry chill
And hear the wind moaning.
The snow flakes are falling, the white mounds are piled
The window panes rattle,
The barnyard is covered, so white, undefiled
By the shivering cattle.

Sitting by the fireside and knowing how well
I have sheltered my stock,
Knowing that the weather in bluster and swell
Cannot harm my young flock,
The sense of contentment flows into the heart
And I list to the storm:
Beat, blow and batter, cast now your coldest dart!
All we are safe and warm,

W.

For The Maryland Farmer.

OUR NEW FARM, XXIX.

DOGS, DOGS, DOGS.

"FATHER, father! Mr. Green, Mr. Green!"

These were the words I heard from my daughter and James one day about twelve o'clock, in an alarmed tone of voice. I answered:

"What's the matter now?"

Both spoke very earnestly and rapidly:

"The sheep, the sheep—all huddled together down by the gate."

I started at once on a run for the sheep pasture, James accompanying me, and daughter stopped to tell her mother further particulars.

As soon as we arrived at the gate the sheep seemed to be quiet, but when the gate was opened they went rapidly towards their shed.

We walked through the pasture, but could discover nothing to have excited them so much. James informed me that they had seen from their back porch the flock racing over the field and heard the bells jingling loudly. We then commenced at the gate and followed the fence round; but we did not find any place where we thought dogs could enter. We were well satisfied however, that a dog or dogs, were the cause of the trouble.

Fortunately James had discovered the commotion in time, and had shouted at the top of his voice and so probably frightened the dogs away, thus preventing the destruction of sheep.

The flock, however, were thoroughly frightened, for they did not attempt to go out to pasture again during the day, showing their fear whenever we came to their inclosure in the yard.

We gathered in the living room to talk the matter over, when James said:

"My father used to keep sheep, but they were not protected by barbed wire placed so closely to prevent the dogs, and he lost so many of them that he felt obliged to give up the keeping of them."

I remarked:

"It was a pretty bold dog that would come in midday to race and worry sheep."

James answered:

"Mr. Burns lost four fine Southdowns one afternoon about three o'clock, almost within sight of his house—mangled and killed by the dogs."

Then I said:

"I must walk around that pasture again and examine more closely, and see whether there is any hole where a dog can enter."

James remarked:

"Some of those hounds can leap the fence with very little trouble and quite a number of hunters have been around lately."

Wife then said:

"Isn't there a law to protect the sheep?"

I answerd her:

"No—no law to protect the sheep; but the mockery of a law to pay a couple of dollars, or so, for each sheep killed by dogs."

She then asked:

"But why don't you make a law to

protect the sheep? A couple of dollars would not go far towards buying a good sheep, a Cotswold or a pure Merino."

Then I answered:

"You just hit the nail on the head that time. The dogs are just as apt to kill a $40. sheep as a $2. one, and so the farmers are not prepared to run the risk, and the whole industry becomes a failure."

That afternoon I again walked around the pasture and examined the fence very closely, but I could discover no place where I thought a dog could enter.

Talking afterward with Mr. Camden James' father, he told me that he had lost from first to last as many as twenty sheep, some of them bought from the Druid Hill Park flock and costing $20. a piece.

I said:

"Dogs are a great nuisance on the farm. I dont see what anyone can want of a great lazy dog about the house."

But Mr. Camden was inclined to champion the dogs in some measure, for he said:

"Dogs are quite useful on a farm. They are generally considerable protection to the women and children, and I feel perfectly safe when I am away with Boson lying quitely on the front piazza."

I asked:

"Are you sure that Boson is not one of the prowlers after the sheep."

He answered:

"Oh, it is never certain in such cases, for dogs are led away by the company they happen to be with at the time."

I then said:

"You are right there, and it is not possible to determine whether a pet dog is guilty or not guilty. Everyone thinks his particular dog the most innocent animal in the whole world."

This subject of dogs came up several times after this, and at one time when they were being praised as a great protection, I said:

"I think dogs may be kept just the same as other animals; but I would not call at a house where one of these ugly dogs is kept no matter what I might wish to purchase."

My wife remarked:

"It seems to me the very worst dogs in every respect are kept by the very poorest and most shiftless of the people. You can hardly pass an old broken down shanty in the country without seeing three or four great dogs ready to run out to bark at you."

James said:

"That is not the worst of it. Those are the very dogs that are doing all the mischief among the sheep and which prevent the farmer from keeping sheep."

Then I commented:

"They may be the principal offenders, for they often have to go hungry and so are forced to hunt their food; but I do not know of any dog that can be depended upon away from home. Good enough among the home flock perhaps but great pests a mile or so away from home in the night time."

Wife immediately added:

"I think the colored folks and the poor folks who get their living by small jobs, and who seem to keep so many worthless dogs, might be taught that these dogs really eat more than would keep a pig, and so they would get rid of the dogs and keep pigs instead."

I answered this by saying:

"I am afraid it would be a long and

hopeless task to teach this lesson, and every generation would have the lesson to learn over again. The only remedy in my opinion is in the law."

Then James said:

"The laws seem to be powerless. The tax on dogs if enforced causes much trouble with these classes who seem to think more of their dogs than they do of their children."

That put me in mind of something and I said:

"Mr. Burns, you know, had his straw stack burned last week. I shouldn't wonder if that was set on fire out of spite, because he killed a dog just before, which he found in his chicken house. He had lost several chickens, watched, and killed the dog."

Wife said:

"That was too bad. I think Mr. Burns had a right to kill the dog. The owner of that dog had better be watched."

I answered:

"The farmers generally of this neighborhood have been warned to keep their eyes upon that man, and he will be caught after awhile, when it will go pretty hard with him."

James said:

"As a general thing, dogs are a great nuisance and we never expect to have one on our farm. Wife, however, likes cats, and they are useful to keep away rats and mice."

Then wife began again:

"It seems that most of the dogs are kept by the poorest of the poor, and as they become educated a little, and in better circumstances, the dogs disappear somewhat. Now I think this is the way to remedy this evil."

Of course I had to say:

But many well to do farmers, although they are convinced that no dogs are safe where sheep are in question keep dogs and are opposed to any remedy by law which would prevent the dog evil."

James then said:

"No law would be of much value, which would not permit the killing of dogs when found at large, off from their owners' premises. And such a law is very much opposed."

Then I remarked:

"From the farmer's point of view, who keeps sheep, dogs are only a species of wild savage animals constantly watching opportunity to worry and kill their prey. It would be well to treat them accordingly."

Mother remarked:

"I wonder how many sheep are destroyed by dogs every year in the United States."

I answered:

"That would be hard to tell. But it would go up into the hundreds of thousands. This would have been a more useful item for the census than many of the statistics gathered there. Taking the value of sheep destroyed in a single year would more than pay for all the dogs in the country."

It will be seen that in the Green household dogs would have but little sympathy, and it would just then have been thought a good thing if they could have all been exterminated.

Daughter remarked:

"The society for protecting dumb animals seem to make dogs very prominent objects of their care, and their papers are full of stories praising them to the skies."

Mother said in reply:

"That's because the writers only see one side, and anyone can make up an affec-

ting story in favor of a dog or any other animal."

I said:

"Yes, that's so. Don't you remember the case where a bear alarmed the people in a house which was on fire and was the means of saving their lives. And again, a mountain tiger roaming around the encampment of some emigrants out west, saved them from being murdered by indians, awaking them just in the nick of time. Such stories can be made up without trouble."

Daughter then said:

"Dogs are nothing but dogs, anyhow, and something should be done to stop them from sheep killing."

Then followed many comments:

"Dogs eat the eggs whenever they get a chance."

"Dogs not only eat the eggs; but they kill the chickens."

"Dogs are always chasing and worrying kitty, so that she is always frightened when a dog is around."

"Dogs are always frightening and barking at persons on the roads, making horses run away and causing accidents."

"Dogs are apt to bite children and to transmit hydrophobia, which is a terrible disease, to animal and man."

At this point I said:

"Dogs kill sheep, and if the dogs were killed, sheep husbandry would be one of the largest industries in this country."

James said his thought:

"Dogs are a decided nuisance, and the nuisance should, at all hazards be abated."

(*To be continued.*)

Write us at once if you wish a fair chance to make money this winter.

For The Maryland Farmer.

A POULTRY FARM.

Mr. Editor:—Many are inclined to the idea that poultry can't be kept in such large numbers as I keep them. But after reading my way of keeping them, you will see that they can. I am going to give you an idea of how I do it.

Every morning my team starts off to the city before daylight with all the eggs of the previous day, and I have customers to supply, who give me from two to five cents more a dozen for my eggs than the retail market price, because they know they are right fresh. Eggs two days old, if I have any, I sell at market price; but I very rarely have any.

The team, after serving my customers goes to several hotels, where I get all the scraps of the day before, for I have an arrangement with them. The team gets back between two and three o'clock generaly.

Now I have three large iron kettles set in brick and into these the scraps are thrown with plenty of hot water, and are cooked till everything is one mass of thick mush; Into this I stir bran, oat meal and corn meal. I don't measure it, I just scoop it in uutil I think I have enough. It becomes quite dry when finished. This is what they get the next morning. I can't go into all the items, Mr. Editor, but I'll do the best I can to let your readers into the secrets; for they are too far off to interfere with my market.

By daylight in the morning my men are at work, as if they were afraid something dreadful would catch them—and when the chickens and ducks are ready to come out, the water is running along in

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the troughs about four feet in front of the coops, and the troughs for feed are filled about a rod in front of the coops.

The poultry generally stop for a sip of the water on their way to the feed troughs, and after eating they gradually wander down to the lower end of their yards which are about 200 feet long, and then out into the pasture lots. They are all young hens, or all ducks, for I keep only a few yards with roosters or drakes and those to supply eggs for hatching.

Now they are off except as they come back singly to lay. While gone, my men very leisurely clean up the coops, wheeling away the manure and composting it for use on the farm. What they can do without any hurry before twelve o'clock every day they must. Each man has a row of houses—500 feet long—to attend to, and he does what he can.

If anything is out of order, hinges, doors, shutters, glass, or roosts, fences or gates of the yards, it is reported to me and I attend to that. I have an eye at the same time on the men and see that everything is done in order.

One of my two sons spends the most of his time watching the flocks. It is his duty to see if any sick birds are around, and he is to exercise his judgment whether to kill and bury them or to try to save them. No one has any right to touch a sick bird but him, and all the sick must be reported to him. We have lost very few fully grown birds and not over five per ct any one year—and less of the ducks than of the chickens.

Our 500 ft houses are located on different parts of the farm not all in a bunch, and as each flock of about twenty has its own home they are virtually small flocks keeping together through the day and roosting in the same apartment at night, and occupying the same nest boxes.

They have wide range; but are called together again at night about dusk and fed wheat, corn or oats whole. Then they go to bed or to roost.

A few items I will add to this: Our soil makes an excellent dust bath; but grit is scarce, so I have a wagon load of fine gravel dumped in every yard. They seem to get all the lime they want from the farm. Being confined but little they seem to enjoy good health. Our winters are as short, if not shorter than yours, Mr. Editor, and the general climate is fully as mild as yours about Baltimore.

I have kept these chickens and ducks several years and I am not discouraged by any means. All the chickens that I wish to sell I send to market alive, for I have not the necessary help to kill and pack them. The ducks, however, more than pay for extra hired help to prepare them for market.

I cannot give as many particulars in this letter as I want to; but another time I will try and do better. JIM. BROWN.

Saving Trash.

In the autumn there is always an immense amount of waste trash about the farm that could be profitably gathered up and added to the manure heap.

Vegetable refuse of all sorts, weeds that have been cut before their seeds began to ripen, dead leaves, feathers of poultry, cleanings of the hen house, etc., would make each season a good sized pile of compost.

To this should be added the kitchen and house slops, and by spring it would

be in condition to make a good garden fertilizer.

Labor cannot be better applied, especially after the busy season of the harvest is over, than by gathering up and making ready for use every thing that will aid at all towards the enrichment of the soil.

Besides accomplishing that, all such work is valuable because it helps to clear away and dispose of debris that would otherwise be unsightly and unhealthful if left to decay here and there about the premises.

It is the man who attends to such things whenever the time and opportunity permit that earns the reputation of being a good farmer. A farm that is not well cleaned up in the fall is rarely a profitable one.

For the Maryland Farmer.

OFF YEARS IN ORCHARDS.

Editor Maryland Farmer:

At your request, I will attempt to give your readers some information on what are known to orchardists as "off years" in bearing, and my opinion on what should be done this winter to guard against an unfruitful season for 1892. There are several causes which act directly or indirectly in causing "off years" in bearing or unfruitfulness in certain seasons.

1. A tree may fail to produce flowers, and consequently no fruit could follow. This function of blooming lies within the control of the orchardist. Flowers are not produced because a tree has been allowed to produce wood. It is too vigorous. To check a tree from producing too much wood and to throw it into a flowering condition is the work of the orchardist. It comes under the principle that the more the sap is retarded in its circulation the less wood and the more fruit buds will it develop.

The operations which check the circulation of sap are briefly stated as follows:

1. Snap off or fracture long growth of the past season instead of cutting them off. This is best applied however to apples and pears and not to peaches or plums.

This fracturing of twigs from one to three feet long in the top of a tree does much to force a tree into fruit bearing wood or spurs.

This I have tried quite successfully. It would require too much space to give its philosophy.

2. Tie down vertical branches so as to be horizontal in position. This is one of the best and easiest means of throwing a tree into fruit. After being held in that position for a few months they will remain horizontal, especially after they bear a load of fruit. Sap always favors perpendicular branches more than horizontal. If you will stop to think you will remember that the most productive trees you have ever seen or known are those whose habits of growth are spreading with mostly horizontal limbs.

3. If these methods do not succeed in controling a stubborn tree, take out a ring of bark in June a half inch wide from the base of the main limbs. Make the ring wider for the vertical limbs and narrower for the spreading limbs. Or combine this removal of a ring of bark with the above methods.

I know of a few trees on the "Eastern Shore" that had the bark removed entirely from the body in June and in one case of a sixteen year old Pear tree that

had never borne fruit, lived seven years after the bark was removed and bore heavily every year. I would not however recommend this very severe treatment.

The small ring will answer the same purpose and not jeopardize the life of the tree. It could not be practiced at all upon stone fruit.

4. For very stubborn trees, dig a trench eighteen inches deep from two to five feet from the trunk around a tree according to its age and with a sharp spade severing all the roots reached. This is a sure method of throwing trees into early bearing and at the same time makes very prolific half dwarfs of them. This should be done in the fall, usually in Oct. or Nov. These are the most important methods of forcing a tree into fruit.

2. Off years are caused also by poor or no pollination even if a tree is covered with blossoms.

This is due often to cloudy and rainy weather just at the time when insects should be at work cross-fertilizing every flower. Many of the pollen grains also germinate while in the anthers during that sort of weather and thus become worthless. This lessens the chances of fertilizing every pistil. This of course is beyond the control of the grower.

3. Insects injurious to the buds, flowers and fruits are far more numerous some years than others. The Rose chafer has been known to eat every bloom from a tree.

The bud worm often destroys the bloom while in the bud.

Plant lice (Aphis Mali) are often so thick upon the leaves as to suck them to death and leave the young formed fruit without support and the result is they drop prematurely.

The codling moth is often far more severe some seasons than all others with apples and pears.

The Curculio also on peaches and plums is more severe some seasons than in others. And thus many more could be cited.

No less true would be the injuries of fungi. Some years "peach rot" apple scab, pear leaf blight, and pear scab, and other diseases are more destructive than in others because the condition of heat and moisture are better some seasons for the growth of these mischief makers. But these causes of unfruitfulness are pretty well under our control. Begin in April before the buds burst to spray every tree of whatever fruit and every vine and bush with one pound Sulphate Copper dissolved in 25 gallons of water. Follow this as soon as the blossoms fall, with another spraying with 4 pounds Copper Sulphate dissolved in 3 gallons water, 4 pounds lime shacked as for white wash. Add enough water to the lime to make it milky then pour it into the copper solution while stirring. Add enough water to make 30 gallons, and finally add for apples and pears about 3 ounces Paris green. For peaches and plums 2 ounces.

This mixture (Bordeaux reduced) should be used a second time about 10 days later and still again in a couple of weeks later.

Follow this in 10 or 12 days after the third spraying with the Carbonate Copper and Carbonate Ammonia mixture, which is made by dissolving 3 oz of Copper Carbonate in one pound of dissolved Carbonate Ammonia and while hot is better. Put this in 50 gallons of water. A second spraying and the last of the season should follow a couple of weeks later making six sprayings in all at intervals of about

two weeks. This work will save the crop against most of the insects and all the fungi. For lice the kerosene emulsion would have to be used early in the season.

4. The next source of unfruitfulness is that of neglect. Growers expect their trees to be profitable from year to year without turning their hand to aid the trees in the effort of their artificial production. They never prune, they never fertilize or cultivate or spray. All fruit must be treated as artificial productions, for if not so treated they tend to retrograde to their native conditions and will bear less and less palatable and luscious fruits.

All dead wood must be yearly removed as the juncture of any dead limb forms a sore and tends to reduce the vigor of the tree. The balance and control of a tree must be carefully held by the grower by judicious annual pruning of those parts which tend to unbalance the tree. The judgment that should be exercised in keeping a tree just at the fruiting point, is one rarely found among growers. I often think it depends as much upon natural instinct as upon culture. Some of my students have a natural taste to work on the symetry and regulation of sap flow of trees. Yet much can be done in acquiring this knowledge.

We now come to consider the present problem that confronts the orchardist.

What to do with his orchards that have borne heavy crops.

Let us reason a little.

Those trees by virtue of the fact that they bore heavily are in the condition to form, or rather have formed, fruit buds.

I have examined several trees and they are full of fruit buds. The heavy crop they bore reduced their vigor, and by some inexplicable law trees always form more fruit buds and less leaf buds when the vigor is reduced. Hence we need not fear that we will not have plenty of blooms.

But now our trees have worked hard to support a heavy load of fruit and have stored up a far less amount of starch and other foods for next year. This is shown by the smaller size of the twigs of this year's growth as compared with those of last year's growth. The smaller the twig the less food it can hold. Therefore we must prune off more of the fruit spurs than we did, or should have done last winter. It is very difficult to lay down any rule as to how many spurs (on apple and pears) or fruit buds (on peach and plum growths) should be removed. In peaches I should think it would be best to remove about three-fifths, on trees, that bore heavily and less on those that bore less. The removal of flowering buds to this extent will give us a crop of a comparatively few very large fruits and at the same time the trees will be able to regain their original vigor.

Trees should never be allowed to bear heavy crops, moderate crops every season, should be the motto.

You asked if some fertilizers could be applied to aid in producing a crop next year.

Most certainly.

A crop of 54 bushels of apples removes over ten pounds, by careful analysis, of potash from the soil. This is the main ingredient that is reduced in most soils of orchards and of course should be replaced.

Early in the spring every orchard that bore heavily should be top dressed with muriate potash at the rate of at least 200 pounds to the acre.

The next plant food constituent that has been reduced in the soil is phosphoric

acid. In the making of the seeds it is stored up as food for the future plant, and where quantities of fruit are removed the seed are removed also and impoverish the soil in phosphoric acid. This can be also restored by applying with the muriate potash about 100 lbs fine bone meal to the acre, or that amount of S. C. rock.

With a little extra work, if the season is favorable, there is no reason why we should not have a good crop in 1892.

THOS. L. BRUNK.

College Park, Md.

Making Garden Land.

If you really desire to have more manure to the end that you may make your land richer, let us suggest that this winter you keep all the barns or pens with tight floors and plenty of bedding under them. The stock will thrive, the manure pile grow, and less feed be consumed. Keep the stock under shelter this winter, make and save the manure, and have better stock, better land, better crops and better profits.

Bananas.

In every American market bananas are plentiful. The United States imported $4,500,000 worth of bananas and $882,810 worth of cocoanuts last year. New York was the largest receiving point with New Orleans a good second. The banana trade throughout the country is simply immense and has increased to such proportions only within the past fifteen years.

There are imported into our American ports over one thousand million bananas.

The Philadelphia mint coined 94,000,000 pennies last year.

Cremation For Peach Yellows.

A Delaware peach grower is said to have found "the real cause of yellows," namely, two insects, one working in the bark, the other at the root. In Michigan the yellows sweep off the trees, even when none of the above insects (when known here) are present. The real nature of the malady is still undetermined, but we know it to be contagious, and that it is held in check by rooting out the trees and burning them as soon as the early ripening, over-red peaches with any red pulp about the pit tells that the disease is at hand. This method has been faithfully practised at South Haven, and though the trouble began there about twenty years ago, they still raise this delicious fruit. Where the rooting out process was not practised, the disease rooted out peach growing. So far as we know this is the only cure. Good culture always pays, but it can't overcome or hold at bay this terribly fatal disease.—*A. J. Cook in N. Y. Tribune.*

Money in Cabbage and Celery.

"Blood will tell." Good crops cannot be grown with poor strains of seed.

For sixteen years Tillinghast's Puget Sound Cabbage, Cauliflower and Celery Seeds have been gaining in popularity.—The most extensive growers all over the Union now consider them the best in the world. A catalogue giving full particulars regarding them will be sent free to anyone interested. When writing for it enclose 20cts in silver or postage stamps and we will also send "HOW TO GROW CABBAGE AND CELERY," a book worth its weight in gold to any grower who has not read it.

Address ISAAC F. TILLINGHAST,

La Plume, Pa.

For the Maryland Farmer.

THE GRIP.

BY DR. CRACE-CALVERT.

I have received a number of letters asking for a remedy for this most dreaded afflictive disease. But it is impossible for me to place on paper any remedy which will cure it. The wise physician does not attack a disease in the abstract: but only as it exhibits itself with each patient.

Patent medicines attempt to cure disease purely as disease, without regard to the peculiar circumstances and symptoms in individual cases. A skilled physician never willingly places himself on that position. Patent medicines make cures in a general way and no sane man is able to deny that they make cures. The mistake is in supposing that the same remedy will cure in every case.

It well not do it.

I should have to see each case; for in its first stages I would perhaps use some simple remedy of the homoeopathic order, say Iodide of Arcenic, 3d trituration, in powder, which seems to kill the disease in its outset every time.

Later on, I might have to use quinine in regular doses, even largely as twenty grains to the dose, where the symptoms required it.

These will serve to show how impracticable it is to place any remedy on paper without seeing the condition of the patient. When the Grip comes therefore, the sneeze, the running from the nose the chill traveling up and down the back, the aching head, etc., better get the doctor and let him have charge of the case. It is something not to be trifled with, I can assure yon.

The only general directions I can give are such as will guard against contracting the disease. These directions are good, also, for some other occasions:

1. Keep the feet well shod, and always dry.

2. Keep the head covered when out of doors.

3. Don't expose yourself to sudden changes from heat to cold, from dry to wet.

4. Eat moderately of substantial, nourishing food.

5. Exercise moderately.

6. Don't drink any intoxicating liquors.

It would seem that almost anyone could observe all these directions without trouble, and yet you won't do it.

The first time your friend calls this winter, when about to leave, you will go to the door bare-headed and stand there talking, on purpose to get the grip.

If you happen to have on house slippers, and want something across the yard, you will go for it through rain or slush, on purpose to get the grip.

But I have done all I agree to do when I give you the advice; but if you are bound to disregard it—all right. Call in the doctor and after three or four weeks' suffering, pay twenty five dollars towards his support. Don't begrudge it, either. You brought it on yourself and the doctor must have his living.

I give this advice. I am tired—I am worn out—I have almost decided to retire from practice. If my friends would only allow it! I've got enough to live on without being worked to death in such times as these of general sickness. It is a tax on nervis and brain. I would rathed farm my little piece of land and live a quiet life.

Dear Maryland Farmer, I must leave this letter unfiuished, to go where duty calls. I can't write any more now.

Entered as second class matter at Baltimore, Md.

THE

MARYLAND FARMER.

AND

NEW FARM.

Agriculture, Live Stock and Home Life.

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A BOARD of AGRICULTURE.

In view of the great work which it is hoped will be done for our State during the coming World's Fair at Chicago, we think no movement is more desirable than the appointment of a Board of Agriculture.

It is true that our manufacturing interest and our commercial relations are of great importance and may be greatly increased under a proper display of their claims. It is true, also, that back of these are powerful organizations with large capital, assisted also by municipal organizations, boards of trade and merchants' exchanges.

These bodies are moving. On the other hand the farmers of Maryland have no organization for such decisive action, or the use of any capital which can enable them to set forth the agricultural attraction of the State.

In fact, the advantages of setting forth these attractions do not as evidently reach individuals as in the other cases. The effect is not seen to add to the individual income of the farmer as it does in the other case to the individual merchant or manufacturer.

It is of a general nature and benefits the State at large, and in this way reaches all classes—not merely the farmer, but the manufacturer and the merchant as well.

The agricultural advantages of Maryland are, however, of vast importance to the future advancement and prosperity of the State. They need a systematic arrangement and exhibition which can only be done by a Board of Agriculture, or a Secretary of Agriculture who could devote his attention to this object.

This Board, or Secretary, should collect all those facts relating to the vast body of cheap lands in Maryland, which can be set forth to attract purchasers. Under appropriate heads as to location, condition, price, healthfulness, nearness to markets, earliness of crops, kinds and value of crops, means of transportation, &c., &c., these should be condensed and mod-

ern means of the printing press should be used for their distribution.

This subject has been on our mind for some considerable time, and it is not out of the way to say, that we believe no more important work can be done for the good of our State for years to come. If it is done in a thorough manner and with the view of giving the actual facts and condition of lands as they now exist, with all their present surroundings and improvements, and obligated prices and terms of sale, a great work can be done.

Nothing can be done by mere generalizations and with no pointed, specific facts to back up the general statements. Official figures, with individual names of responsible owners under oath if thought necessary, will do what we want done.

A responsible Secretary, with a report covering all necessary points, with the State behind him and supporting him, and the great body of unoccupied lands ready for the purchaser, make the propositions for inquirers definite and clear. It will only be necessary then to secure a general knowledge of the facts, by people of other localities, to accomplish all our State can desire.

Opportunities will not be wanting, when once the facts are ready, to spread them over the country.

TRIMMING GRAPE VINES.

Amateurs are generally very timid in the trimming of grape vines. They are fearful that they will cut away too much of the wood. They read directions in the books and looking over the vine are wholly skeptical as to using the knife so extensively. In fact it seems to them a barbarous proceeding.

Seldom do books give directions which require more trimming than is good for vine and fruit, and if you have permitted November and December to go by without doing the work, we would advise you to do it now. Next summer will show you the wisdom of making thorough work.

RAILROAD DICTATION.

We observe that our Western Exchanges are indignant over the faet that certain Railroads are dictating to grain buyers the prices to be paid farmers for wheat. Letters are published threatening that if buyers pay more for wheat than the railroads dictate, the roads will not supply cars for transportation.

There is but one remedy for this high-handed interference: Pass laws to confiscate the charter of any Railroad which refuses transportation for grain. Not only pass such laws, but enforce them. Farmers have the numbers, even if they do not have the money, and numbers will count where ballots rule. Teaeh these Railroads a lesson they will not forget for some time to come.

We would call especial attention to the notice for a Partner on page six of this number.

"OFF YEARS."

We wish to call especial attention to the article of Prof. Brunk of the Agricultural Experiment Station on this important subject. In writing him our object was to learn what could be done to prevent the threatened "off year" for fruit, the coming year. Proper fertilization and proper manipulation of blossom buds seem to be the great resources from now to the bearing season. If the trees during the past season had received an abundance of food, the enfeebling process would have been measurably prevented; but where this has not been attended to, the other resources remain. Read this article attentively, and where orchardists or other wish further information, a letter to Prof. Brunk will receive prompt attention.

HOG CHOLERA.

We have received from the Agl. Dept. a report on inoculation as a protection against Hog Cholera. The whole may be summed up in two words: Not satisfactory.

While the experiments show that as a preventive it is a failure, they also show that inoculation may be a very great agent in distributing the disease with fatal effects.

FREE MAIL DELIVERY.

Citizens have it, why should not farmers have it? Towns and villages have had the trial of it and its success is no longer a question. Let it be tried now on some country roads, between post offices and among farming communities. We think its success will be something beyond the auticipation of the most sanguine. The correspondence will be vastly increased, and the benefit to the country will in many ways be beyond computation. The newspaper will be more generally used, and letters will reach their destination and receive their answer in much shorter time. Added comforts enrich our lives. Why should not farmers enjoy free mail delivery?

THE BARN YARD.

This winter si the time to make a critical examination of your barn yard. It should be high and dry. You should not travel through wet manure to the stable door. The path should be as firm and dry as to the front door of your dwelling. The horses and cattle when they come from the barn, should not sink into mud, slush, half liquid dung and encounter constant discomforts. It is just as easy to have things right as wrong about the barn-yard. The farmer who enjoys his farming is all right in such things. It is the farmer who worries and frets, whose barn yard is a libel on comfort and a witness of wasted labor.

THE COLUMBIA DAILY CALENDER.

For the Editor's Desk, this Pad Calender, compact, suggestive and eminently usefnl, is just what is needed.

The seventh annuul issue—1892—surpasses all that preceded it. May the Pope Mfg. Co. flourish, to give us many more as the years roll round.

POPULAR USE OF SCIENTIFIC TERMS.

One of our Exchanges uses the following method of conveying information to its farmer readers :

"Different foods may be fed separately to properly balance the albuminoids and carbohydrates."

"Casein and albumen, as well as butyrin and other oils, are the elements of decay in butter. They oxidize."

An adjoining paragraph says :

"Put your ideas into the briefest and plainest language and send them."

We smiled at the request, with above examples at hand to enforce the meaning.

RAILROADS.

It is the fault of the people that they are forced to pay so heavy a passenger tariff on railroads. t can be regulated. One cent a mile is high enough—too high for long distances —let the legislatures act. If they do not act, place men there who will.

THE BOULEVARD.

We are decidedly in favor of a grand highway—free to the world—between Baltimore and Washington. We would go even further than this : we would have it extend from New York to Washington. But as a commencement we heartily advocate one from Baltimore to Washington. Let it be of a character to bestow honor upon the State of Maryland and the capitol of the nation. Let an appropriation be made by the State conditioned on an appropriation by Congress, and start the ball a rolling.

FARMER BROWN AND THE WORLD'S FAIR.

We see it intimated in some of our exchanges that Gov. Elect Frank Brown, is giving the whole matter of the Worlds Fair into the hands of the politicians, city jobbers, and the old agitators of such public occasions. We trust not. Farmer Brown is not forgetting the farmers' interests. The slate is not made up with his signature at the bottom of it as yet, let us hope.

OUR ROADS.

Good roads are a necessity for the prosperity of the farmer. Criminals and tramps should be put at work on the roads until we have the best possible roads in every part of the country. Roads perfectly drained, as hard and solid as rock, as smooth as a floor. This is a work which will not encroach upon that of any class of honest laborers, and where none will object to seeing them employed. They will thus be doing something, also, to pay the State for their support.

ICE.

Take the first opportunity to put in your stock of ice. The season is not

to be depended upon in this region. At this writing no ice has formed more than a quarter of an inch thick at any time this winter and cold weather has not continued but two or three days without rising temperature and almost spring weather following it. Our storms have been uniformly rain storms; a flurry of snow attracting attention because of its rarity. Be sure then to get your ice as soon as possible.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

An exchange says:

"An agricultural education consists of a knowledge of soils, plants, animals, fertilzers and foods."

We would rather consider it in this light: The above items being given, an agricultural education is a knowledge of the best methods of cultivating and using these things.

A chemist may have a thorough knowledge of these things; but in practical agriculture be a dunce. A man who is ignorant of "how to do it," has no agricultural education.

For the Maryland Farmer.

COMMUNICATED.

My Dear Mr. Walworth:

I understand that you are about to add to your Editorial Staff and canvassing department a live Eastern Shoreman, in the person of our old friend MALONE, former Publisher of the "Salisbury Advertiser," "Bachelor," "Sentinel" and "Eastern Shoreman." He has been one of our most enterprising and successful newspaper men on the shore; and if he does not make the "Farmer" lively and interesting, it will be because the farmers, truckers and stockmen have lost their taste for a live aggressive and entertaining Periodical. If the agriculturists of the State will accord to the "Farmer" the degree of patronage it will deserve they will be amply repaid. Mr. Malone is a live newspaper man and agricultural writer. I shall look forward to the coming of the "Farmer" each month with increased anxiety, while I remain yours truly,

E. SHOREMAN.

We bespeak for Mr. Malone a favorable reception from our friends in all parts of the country, and w herever he may chance to be we ask our subscribers to give him substantial aid in his work.—Editor M. F.

RHUBARB OR PIE PLANT.

If you have not eovered your plants already we advise a liberal covering with coarse manure. The ground being frozen it will be only a benefit.

Early in the Spring open the covering immediately over the crowns of the plants, and if you have only a few, cover them with barrels without the heads, and surround the barrels with a good packing of horse manure. In this way the very best and strongest stalks are insured very easily in the season.

For the Maryland Farmer.

WHY IS IT SO?

One objection which is popular against the silo and ensilage may be put in words which are constantly used by scientific writers, viz:

"Nothing but the water disappears from grass and corn stalks when made into hay or fodder, all the real nutriment remains."

I am not enough of a scientist to verify this, or to object to it from any analysis of the substances; but from a practical point of view and experimental facts I am able to form decided opinions.

Now, when I confine a cow and give her all the hay she can use and treat her as well as I know, but keep her on the hay alone, she will not grow fat at all—she will scarcely hold her own as to flesh, milk shrinks, and the condition is generally discouraging. But when I turn this same animal out to grass, she will increase in flesh even to fatness, while her milk produce measurably increases.

If the scientific writers are correct why is this so? What is there in this water (which dries out) to make such a difference with the cattle? Any farmer knows the truth of what I write; but these men of science are evidently in a thick fog on these practical subjects.

Flavor of Meat.

While it is true that both plants and animals draw from their food such ingredients as are demanded by their kind, the same soil growing apples, potatoes, corn, turnips, or other crops, and the same food making pork, beef, mutton, chickens, and so on, according to the kind of animal life it is fed to, it is also true that there is a reaction on the part of the food which varies the product within the limit of its kind and imparts to it, to some extent, the flavor contained in the food.

For instance, we are told that the Swiss cow, feeding upon her native mountain, eating highly flavored aromatic herbs, has a high-flavored milk and butter, but when that cow is taken down to the valley and fed upon different herbage her milk soon looses that high and piquant flavor.

We are assured that in the case of the deer, with its very high-flavored meat, caused as is supposed by the flavor of its herby food, when placed in a gentleman's park in England or elsewhere, and fed for a few years upon the same food as sheep, its flesh cannot be told from mutton.

The wild turkey in also prized for its high-flavored flesh, but when domesticated and fed like the domestic turkey its flesh loses this high and piquant flavor.

Thus the flavor and quality are varied by the food, and even the form can be varied from one of sharp angles and ungainly shapes of starvation to one of thrift and comliness.

Thus "the veriest scrub, taken at a year old, can be rounded out into a beautiful form at 2½ to 3 years old.

The American Jersey of to day is very little like the Jerseys that where imported 20 years ago. The American Jersey, in the hands of a skillful feeder, has straight top and bottom lines; the high hips are covered, and they are rounded out into diminutive Short-Horns." It is hardly possible to overestimate the power of good food.—*Mirror and Farmer.*

Stealing.

"A Connecticut man kept an accurate account with a half acre in small fruits, charging the family with all consumed from it at the market rates, and in the course of a year found the half-acre had yielded $365 worth towards the maintenance of the family, which made it, beyond a doubt, the most remunerative area of like size on the farm.

The reason why so many farmers discover that small fruit, apple orchards and vegetable gardens do not pay is because they steal everything out of them. They go to them and deliberately steal three-fourths of their living. If they would keep an account as did this Connecticut man, crediting the orchard and garden with whatever it gave to the family support, they would find the results as remarkable as he did.—*Kansas Capital.*

For Thirty Years

Humphreys' Veterinary Specifics have been used with perfect success and thousands testify that these Specifics cure all curable diseases of horses, cattle or other stock in half the time and at half the expense of any other system or treatmeht.

Sheep.

The idea that the wool gives taste to the flesh, either by its growth before butchering or by its touch in butchering, or after, is a very old one, but it is erroneous.

The flesh of the sheep partakes of the flavor of its feed more than does that of the steer or the hog; and the milk still more, perhaps. But all the apparatus of glands and tissues for the manufacture of wool is situated in the skin, and all its deposits are made there without affecting the flesh.

The disagreeable "sheepy" flavor is imparted to meat by age, by bad feeding (or no feeding at all), and by delay in the removal of viscera.

Let a sheep be properly managed from birth to butchering, and the entrails taken out with neatness and dispatch, and the carcass may be wrapped in the skin without detriment, barring the uncleanliness.

From the enormous preponderance of the breed, the much decried "Merino taste" is the scapegoat for all the bad feeding and worse butchering of the country. A sheep may yield the best flesh of all the domesticated animals or fowls —or the worst.

"Worth a Guinea a Box"

From Fame, a Londen newspaper.

Mr. S——, a chemist of Liverpool, received a bill for the amount of 28s. from Thomas Beecham, St. Helen. Mr. S——, being at the time in pecuniary difficulties, pondered for a considerable time how to meet the demand, at last a bright idea flashed across his mind, and he said, joyfully:

"Yes, I will send Beecham a box of his own pills——he says himself they are worth a guinea a box——and seven shillings in cash."

This he did. In the course of a few days great was the surprise of Mr. S——to find that Beecham had forwarded the receipt attached to which were the words, "Cash only in future. Thomas Beecham."

In the United States Beecham's Pills are also advertised as universally acknowledged to be "worth a guinea a box"—but that they are for sale by all druggists at 25 cents.

Beecham evidently thinks it best to hedge against such bright fellows as the Liverpool druggist turning up on this side of the water.

For the Maryland Farmer.

FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED.

The farmer's life is no better than any other person's life unless the farmer appreciates his opportunities for leisure, independence, comfort and enjoyment of the prsduce of his farm. Appreciating these advantages his life towers above that of every other occupation.

***

When the Agricultural College farm is considered only so much ground upon which to spend thousands of dollars with no profit, and with but little return of any kind, no wonder intelligent farmers sneer, ridicule and deride.

***

The Pig when properly handled is the farmer's good friend. He adapts himself to all circumstances and is never at a loss when in field or orchard. A dozen hogs in an acre orchard will keep it rich and in bearing condition. Give him half a chance and he will prosper.

***

Roast pork and sweet potatoes are hearty food for strong hearty men. Delicate women can choose their bit of the same and be content. It is a dish for the wear and tear of rugged labor; or, for the pleasant recreations of home life.

***

Lamb and mutton are destined 'ere long to be the chief meat on the tables of both rich and poor in this country. Even now the intelligent are making more use of it than ever before. Dogs are preventing at present its profitable production; but, dogs must go.

***

If instructions drawn from an Agricultural College farm do not prove to the students that farming is profitable, of what value is the College to farmers? Close it up and give us something better.

***

Keep the horse warm and his coat will be smooth and shiny all winter—a rough coat shows ignorance on the part of the owner, or wilful neglect. Animals suffer, and show their suffering as plainly as do mankind.

***

Who wonders at it? The farmers near our Agricultural College, with little or no capital, make farming pay. The College spends $50.000 a year and proves their 200 acre farm a failure. Farmers are dissatisfied with such management. Who wonders at it?

***

The family should be made comfortable as well as animals in stable or barn. Some farmers bestow all their attention on the latter and allow the family to suffer. Make the home first in your hearts and all the other will naturally follow.

***

Sheep suffer just as much from the changes of the weather as do other stock. They suffer more from cold, drizzely winter storms—they suffer more from wet feet—they suffer more from neglect than do other stock.

***

If you expect to make your farm the happy home of all your life, plant out large orchards of apples and pears and quinces. In years to come these will supply all the income needed for extras of comfort and luxury. The labors of life will be lightened as age approaches—all the drudgery will disappear.

***

Intensive farming consists in so cultivating ten or a dozen acres that as good a

living may be realized from that amount of land as from two hundred acres, as ordinarily cultivated. Vegetables and fruits instead of grasses and grains. Fertilizers on small areas in large quantities, instead of being thinly spread over great surfaces.

Celery

With one or two notable exceptions we have never seen celery on a farmer's table. Even in these cases it was bought and not raised by the man who ate it. Now celery is a most comforting relish at this season of the year when the diet of green things is fading slowly away before one's eyes. We don't know why the men who raise almost everything else should not have some celery to rub their appetites against.—*Kansas Capital.*

H. F. DELNO & Co.,
Columbus, Ohio. July 3rd, 1891
GENTLEMEN:—My plating machine received, everything in perfect order and works perfectly. I unpacked it and commenced at once and plated seven breast pins and a ring in a short time. I am delighted with the work. People are bringing all the forks, spoons, watches, jewelry, etc. that I can plate. Enclosed find $5 for one plater for my cousin. More orders soon.
Write above firm for circulars. A. KRIVER.

Corn for Starving Russians.

A recent dispatch from St Petersburg to the London Telegraph gives a harrowing description of the famine in Russia and the distress which has resulted among the peasants arising from the failure of the crops. Added to this distress the famine stricken district has been ravaged by destructive fires, and a cattle plague has caused incredible havoc.

In many of the provinces the wretched people have had to depend upon the sweepings and refuse of flour mills which the land owners would not even feed to their cattle. In others the people have lived upon so called "hunger bread" composed of dried dung, powdered bark of trees, green peas, and pig weed.

There are thirteen provinces in which the people are completely famine stricken and eight others in which a partial famine prevails, and when these poor wretches fail to pay the taxes still extorted from them the knout is used by the officials.

The same dispatch says that the trouble is chiefly due to the Government, which was well aware that a famine was imminent and delayed taking any action until it was too late. It is not too late, however, now to relieve it and prevent the further spread of the famine.

We have in this country a corn crop of two thousand million bushels. If the Russian government were alive to its duty and the promptings of humanity it would make provision for buying large quantities of this corn in the dry meal and and using it for the relief of its suffering people.

Say that there are fifty million in Russia. Four bushels of corn would be sufficient per head, or a total of two million, which we could spare easily after feeding our hogs and cattle and our corn-eaters.

The Russian government should buy at least this quantity and then tell the people how to prepare and cook it.

When such a way offers itself it is incredible that the Government should stand idly by while its people are starving

on such stuff as is mentioned in the dispatches.—*Chicago Tribune.*

A Hanging Basket.

Select a large, sound carrot and cut off the crown of it about four inches down. Scoop out the inside until it forms a cup, leaving the sides about half an inch thick, and the bottom an inch or more.

Make three or four holes in the rim of the cup and draw a string through them to hang it up by. Hang it in a window and keep constantly full of water.

In a short time the yellow-green leaves start out on the crown and grow rapidly upward towards the light. As they grow they deepen in color, and soon the carrot itself is hidden by a feathery, beautiful mass of rich, dark-green leaves.

A Popular Fence.

The Buck-Thorn Fencing advertised in another column, has been manufactured in Trenton, N. J. for 10 or 12 years, and in many sections of the country is very popular, It is claimed to make the most substantial and safest barbed fence known. Being flat, with a single longitudina rib, the largest possible surface is presented to view. It is plain to be seen. No part of it is made of wire. The barbs are short, broad at the base, and only one-quarter of an inch apart at the point, One of its chief merits is that every part of the strand is perfectly coated zinc, the process of galvanizing being the final one. Therefor it never rusts. Our readers who are interested in the fence question would do well to write to The Buck-Thorn Fence Co., Trenton, N. J., for their circulars.

A veritable family medicine box, BEECHAM'S PILLS.

The Pig Pen.

There are many little things which do not cost much that ought to be carefully attended to in the rearing of pigs and making of pork. Whatever contribntes to the comfort and health of the animals should never be overlooked or neglected.

They should have clean, dry quarters, cool and comfortable in summer and warm in winter. Without such shelter, they cannot get a sufficiency of pure, life-giving air to maintain health and stimulate growth.

Their food must be clean, sweet and wholesome, and a supply of pure water to drink is indispensable. Some dry concentrated food in summer and succulent food in winter are necessary, if the best results are to be produced. A mixture of charcoal, sulphur, ashes and salt, always accessible to hogs, will be found efficient in conserving and promoting health. One who never tried it will be surprised at the amount of such mixture which a hog will eat. Then fine and coarse food should be duly mixed, not only to nourish the body, but to keep the digestive organs in good condition and the bowels open.

There is a vast difference in the quality of pork, from the soft, flat, flabby, rank and gristly stuff, to the firm, sweet, crisp clean and fineflavored meat that constantly pleases the appetite and makes you want more.

The first is the product of poorly kept hogs, fed on all sorts of slops and refuse, confined in dirty quarters and a stinking suffocating atmosphere that taints the flesh through and through. It is offensive and disease engendering, and ought to be condemned to decent burial whenever it is put upon the market.

The other is made from well bred hogs, kept in clean pens or allowed to exercise in a clean yard, fed clean, wholesome food, sweet milk and all the water they want to drink.

The first is the victim of bad management; the second is the product of good management. The first is halfstarved stunted and more or less diseased;

the second is wellfet, kept thriving all the while, and is healthy and happy according to the wont of a respectable hog. The one shows how mean a thing a hog may be made, the other what a delicious and useful prodnct may be made of it. The former is probably what Moses condemned, and the other is the product of a high civilization.—*Mirror and Farmer.*

POULTRY.

The Manchester, N. H., *Mirror & Farmer* tells a great many good things about Poultry in the course of the year, and we appropriate the following :

Heating a Poultry House.

A plan for heating a poultry house at little expense will be interesting. A poultry house should not be warmer than 50 degrees above zero. In fact, if the temperature never reaches the freezing point it will be sufficient. A suggestion has been made to use a coal oil lamp; or one of the small coal oil stoves. Over this place a joint of stove pipe, being careful to raise it at the bottom, to allow of a free supply of air from below. Place a tin plate over the top of the pipe, but raised up with wire pegs so as to permit of a free draught through the p ipe.The stove pipe will radiate the heat in all directions, and serve to raise the temperature sufficiently to avoid frost. Of course the stove (or lamp) and pipe must be protected with wire netting, in order to avoid accident or danger from the fowls. This arrangement will cost but little, and need not be used except when the weather is very cold, or to dry the house, as the bodies of the hens give off quite an amount of animal heat. There will be no harm resulting from foul air or gas from the stove or lamp.

What Not to Feed.

Laying hens require the elements that produce flesh and blood rather than those that tend to produce fat. When feeding heavily there are some foods that may be avoided with advantage. Sweet potatoes are unfit for laying hens because they coutain too much sugar and are more fattening than corn. They are excellent for fowls intended for the market, however. Fat meat, too much corn or liberal feeds of sunflower seeds are detrimental. Foods rich in oils tend to loosen the feathers and induce molting, and all kinds of starchy foods, such as grain, should be fed in connection with lean meat, while fresh skimmed milk is also an excellent addition to all rations.

SOIL CHEMISTRY.

Much is said about farmers and chemistry, and the necessity of a knowledge of chemistry in order to cultivate land economically and to advantage.

For example: If the land is already rich in potash, no need of adding that to the fertilizer; if rich in phosphoric acid, no need to supply that; if rich in nitrogen, no need for that.

But farmers will never be skilled

enough in chemistry to manipulate soil according to the methods of science as practiced in laboratories. What the farmer needs is some simple method, by which he can take a handful of soil and determine these matters.

Let him have some simple thing which will show the presence or absence of potash at once; and so also of the other ingredients.

We cannot hope for the day when farmers will ever become as a body chemists. But we might hope for the day when they would use some simple agents supplied them, to determine what was lacking of the three great elements of fertility, and thus they could supply the need understandingly.

Cannot the hosts of chemists clustering in the fat berths of agricultural colleges, invent some means—purchasable by the pint or pound—which will determine these things for farmers?

They will never make chemists of farmers in any other way; and they can do considerable good in this way. Hope for the best.

How he grows Salads.

The way in which Mr. Sherry grows his herbs for salads is interesting. In a cellar are arranged a series of shelves, one above another, and about six inches apart. Upon these shelves are placed layers of rich earth, along the front of which the seeds are planted. There is just light enough in the cellar to cause the tiny green shoots to push straight out toward it, and the man who gathers them clips off with sharp shears, letting them drop into a basket. He does not touch the tender sprays with his hands. If he did they would lose their crispness.

Canned Goods.

The twelfth annual report of the American Grocer, shows that there were put up in the United States and Canada (83,000) a total of 3,405,365 cases, of two dozen tins each, of tomatoes, and 2,799,-453 cases, of two dozen tins each, of corn.

The packing industry producing these results is spread over twenty five States, enabling the farmer to diversify his crops and find a quick home market for fruits and vegetables.

Large as is the quantity of tomatoes and corn put up in the United States in 1891, it represents a grand total of 148,915,632 cans, sufficient to allow each family of five persons to have twelve cans per annum.

The quality of preserved food in tins has risen from year to year, and to-day is of higher average grade than ever before.

In spite of advanced cost of tin-plate and other expenses connected with packing, the price of tomatoes is no higher than last year, nor is the price of corn any higher than during the closing month of 1890.

The corn pack was 1,210,593 cases larger than in 1890, owing to favorable crop conditions.

THE biggest horse in the world is now the pride and glory of Detroit. The noble brute is 21 hands high, weighs 2,365 pounds and is possessed of remarkable intelligence.

FIRST AND LAST MILKINGS.

That there is a difference between the first and last milkings of the same cow is well understood, yet there are few who will be prepared to accept the difference which appeared by experiments made at the Wisconsin Agricultural Station. As reported they showed that it would take seventy-five pounds of the first pint of milk drawn to make a pound of butter, while the same amount of the quality of the last pint of strippings would make 9.675 pounds of butter. So it appears quite easy to rob milk of a good share of its cream by keeping back the strippings.

THE great desert of Sahara is gradually reclaiming under the sedulous care of the irrigationists. Nearly fourteen thousand artesian wells have been sunk in French Algeria. About twelve million acres have been reclaimed, and the once barren, death-generating sand prairie is becoming productive of the grape and palm.

Agricultural College.

The Master of the Vermont State Grange says:

Industrial education is a growing necessity of the age and its demands can not be met by combining it with classical education in the same institution. In our own state I am convinced from personal observation and experience that it would be for the future welfare, standing and prosperity of our state if a goodly proportion of our intelligent boys and girls could receive a thoroughly practical education at an institution designed for that purpose, and I am also thoroughly convinced that such an institution can not be made a success in connection with a classical institution.

I am well aware that during the past year the college authorities at Burlington have made a strong effort to popularize the agricultural department of th enniversity, and it would be strange indeed if these efforts had not met with some degree of success. But I have no faith in any permanent results in any way commensurate with the large expenditure of money.

Age of Domestic Animals.

From the press of F. A. Davis, Philadelphia, we have received a fine volume on the Age of Domestic Animals by Rush Shippen Huidekoper, M. D. The illustrations are very fine, clearly showing to the eye the means of discovering the age of horse, cow, sheep, hog or dog. These together with the exhaustive treatise on the subject leaves little more to be desired in a work of this kind. Price $1.75.

Sheep and Disease.

The sheep is generally supposed to be a tender animal given to disease. This is because the nature of the sheep is not well understood and it therefore does not get proper care. A correspondent of an exchange says:

"Having been with sheep all my life, been a breeder for twenty-five years, lost many sheep and studied the question carefully, I have come to the conclusion that much loss could have been avoided

if I had known more than I did; as it is, I am surprised that I did not lose more sheep.

Sheep have more sense than we give them credit for. They have more than we have sometimes. They are careful to avoid low, wet lands if left to themselves. We require them to do many things that mean death to them, and blame them, not ourselves, if they die.

No domestic animal is so cleanly as the sheep, yet we require them to lie out on the cold, wet ground, or worse yet, occupy wet, nasty yards and worse barns and sheds, wreaking with deadly gases; and when they find relief from miseries by dying we complain of their being delicate.

No animal is so epicurean in what it eats and drinks, yet we feed it without considering its fastidiousness in the least. I have seen sheep drink from the nastiest pools, when I knew they were drinking parasites that I would not take into my stomach for anything.

When I think of these things, I conclude sheep are pretty hardy animals after all that is said."

But human beings, in an emergency, will drink just as filthy water. Sheep suffer greatly from being deprived of a full supply of pure water, and hardly less from lack of salt.—*Mirror. N. H.*

Felling Trees.

We call attention to the advertisement of The Atlantic Dynamite Co. of The Judson Powder. In many parts of our country it has been used with marked success, not only in removing stones and stumps, but in uprooting standing trees. Thus in Washington, D. C., new streets have been opened with comparatively little labor. It is said to be as safe as any powder in the handling.

A Mammoth Tomato.

No vegetable ever introduced has created such a sensation as the Mansfield Tree Tomato.

It grows to a height of twelve or fourteen feet and produces fine large fruit of a most delicious flavor. Many of the tomatoes weigh over three pounds each. The Tree Tomato is ornamental, and being useful as well, should be grown by everyone. The true seed is being offered in this issue by L. L. May & Co., St. Paul, Minn., who are headquarters for it. This firm is giving away $3,000.00 worth of valuable premiums this year and no one should fail to accept their offer and secure a premium list, catalogue and package of this seed.

It is said, by some of the health journals, that we should eat more onions, but when one has lost both smell and taste from a bad cold, they don't feel much like eating onions or anything else. Stonebraker's Cough Syrup will cure the cold.

An ignorant man is unfit to prune fruit trees. He knows nothing about tree habits, fruit buds and fruit spurs, nor how to prune to give a tree good shape.

The metal in a five-cent nickel piece is worth about half a cent, and fifteen cents will purchase copper enough to make $2 worth of cents.

Horses having the heaves need careful treatment. Dusty hay is one of the things they don't need at all. Cut it fine,

very fine, and wet it. Wet the grain also, and give them grass when possible. A horse afflicted with heaves sees its worst days in spring before there is grass or pasture to eat. There is no cure for it —only a mitigation.

BOOKS, CATALOGUES ETC.

F. Barteldes & Co. Kansas Seed House, Lawrence, Kas., A comprehensive Catalogue of garden and flower seeds, finely illustrated.

The Century: Mentioning this monthly is all that is needed to remind our readers of its excellencies.

Harper's Monthly: Filled with reading useful and entertaining, and illustrated with the best that art can produce.

The Review of Reviews: We read this more thoroughly than any other of our monthlies. Why? It is hard to tell. Try it.

The St. Nicholas: The favorite of all our young folks, a manual of beauty.

Our Little Ones: Its attractions for our little grandson are supreme—artistic as well as attractive it never fails to respond to all the wonder of the five year old boy.

Mansill's Almanac, 1892: The Preface and the dissertation on the Moon with the accompanying plate, are well worthy of the attention of experts.

Agr'l. Dept. Reports: The information imparted by these for the benefit of the great agricultural interests cannot be denied. While exceptions have in some instances been taken-on the whole no one can doubt that a great system has been inaugurated by Sec'y Rusk for the good of the farmer.

Consular: The reports from the State Department seem to be of exceptional value, relating to subjects of great interest to farmers as well as other classes of our citizens.

L. L. May & Co. Northern Grown Seeds, Plants & Bulbs. St. Paul, Minn. This is one of the most attractive Catalogues which has been received by us this season.

Reports of the State Board of Agriculture of Virginia, for which we thank the Commissioner. Thomas Whitehead. Esq.

Remarks by Bill Nye, a large volume of humerous writings by this author and containing over 500 pages on heavy paper—F. T. Neely, Chicago, publisher, price 50 cents. We will send it postpaid for one new subscriber.

Peach Yellows, from the Agricultural Department. The examination is yet in its infancy. We cannot as yet see any positively beneficial results for affected orchards or for the protection of orchards not yet affected. The rooting out and burning process is still the only resort.

The New Year's Number of "The Household" Boston, Mass., $1.00 a year, is very attractive. It commences its 25th year with this number.

Nothing pays better than care bestowed upon the cow. For that matter, intelligent kindly care bestowed on any stock, from the bees to the best carriage horse is necessary for the highest success.

ROSIE'S CASE BEFORE THE 'SQUIRE.

'Squire Barlow was fast asleep in his office, his head resting on his desk. He was excusable for sleeping. He was well advanced in life, the day was a hot one, and he had tired his brain in an effort to untangle the accounts of the township assessor.

"Helloa, 'Squire!" some one said.

"Helloa, yourself!" cried the 'Squire, flinging up his head, rubbing his eyes, and adjusting his glasses.

His visitor was a sturdy, brown-faced girl of fourteen, with fluffy black hair, bright self-contained in her manner; and, while there was no resentment in her composition, it was evident that she was one who would stand up for her rights.

"What do you want?" asked the 'Squire.

"Law," was the crisp reply, whereupon the 'Squire struggled to repress a smile.

"I want my pony," the girl added.

"Your pony!" repeated the 'Squire. "I haven't got your pony. Why do you come to me?"

"You're the 'Squire, are you not?" the girl asked. "My pony was stolen last fall. The gypsies have her in their camp at Cove Creek. I saw her there this morning."

Squire Barlow suddenly became interested in the face, voice, and positive ways of his young visitor.

"What is your name?" he asked.

"Rosie Watson, sir," she said.

"Oh, you are the blacksmith's daughter," observed the 'Squire. "Yes, I remember you now. Well, why didn't your father come?"

"It is my pony," the girl said. "And my—my—case."

"Yes," admitted the 'Squire. He laughed softly to himself spread out his official docket, and made a few entries.

"You saw your pony this morning?" he asked.

"Yes, sir. At Cove Creek, by the covered bridge, just outside the gypsy camp. She was grazing on the banks of the stream," stated Rosie.

"Ponies may look very much alike," suggested the 'Squire.

"Ah, but I should know Dollie among a thousand ponies!" declared Rosie, her brown face aglow. "She's a dark bay, with black points, a star on her forehead, white fetlocks, and a faint dash of white on her breast."

The 'Squire was busy writing. He stopped and read aloud to her the complaint and the description.

"Can you add anything?" asked Rosie.

"Why of course, little dear," replied the 'Squire, in his fatherly way.

"Then add" suggested Rosie, "that the pony is ten hands high."

That was promptly interlined; and then the 'Squire gravely asked. "Rosie, can you swear that you know the pony to be yours, and that you believe the gypsies have her?"

"Take this book," the 'Squire said. "It is the Holy Bible. Suppose you swore to what is not true?"

"I would be a perjurer," was Rosie's answer.

"And what would be the consequence?"

"My soul would be lost, unless God forgave me my dreadful sin."

"Yes. child," the 'Squire said, with moistened eyes. "You seem to know what you are about."

He administered the oath, and then said, "Kiss the book."

She looked at him with a wondering glance, and then pressed her lips to the book in an awed, reverential manner.

"What will it cost?" she asked in her matter-of-fact way.

"Don't bother your head about the costs," the 'Squire said. "Wait a bit," he added, seeing that she was about to go. He hurriedly filled up a blank summons, folded it, handed it to her, and said, "I suppose you know where Constable Finn lives?"

"Oh, yes," said Rosie.

"Take that to him at once," the 'Squire said. "It is a warrant for the head gypsy's arrest. The hearing will be held here at two o'clock this afternoon. As you are the complainant, you must be present at that hour."

The time and circumstances of the hearing were noised about the village; and, when two o'clock came, the 'Squire's office was crowded. The gypsy sat upon a rough bench, with an unlighted clay pipe in his mouth. He was dirty, unshaven, sullen-looking. He did not wear a vest, and his corduroy breeches were fastened at his waist by a greasy leathern belt, behind which the half of a knife was visible.

"The plaintiff here, this little girl, claims that you have a pony which belongs to her," 'Squire Barlow said, his eyes on the gypsy, who replied:

"She hasn't any claim on it. It is mine."

"Where did you get the pony?" asked the 'Squire.

"I bought her in Michigan, said the man.

"When?"

"Three years ago."

It was such a bold lie that Rosie's face flamed with indignation.

"She gives a very minute description of the pony," reminded the 'Squire.

"There are plenty of dark bay ponies, ten hands high, and slashed with white," was the man's dogged reply. "Anybody could look at her across a fence and then describe her," he added, with a grin. "The girl must bring better proof before I'll surrender the pony."

Rosie looked out of the rear window of the Squire's office, and saw a small pasture lot close by. Her face fairly beamed with an idea that had occurred to her.

"Squire Barlow," she asked, her strong voice filling the room, "to whose satisfaction must I prove that the pony is mine,—to that man's satisfaction or to yours?"

"To the satisfaction of the court," decided the 'Squire, with a broad smile.

"All right," Rosie exclaimed, with a quick, pleased gesture. "Make out another warrant."

"For whom?" asked the 'Squire.

"For Dollie," replied Rosie.

"Oh, you want the pony arrested, eh?" asked the 'Squire, whereupon everybody laughed.

"I want her brought here and turned into this pasture lot," Rosie excitedly

said, pointing out the window. "I'll prove that she is my pony against all comers and goers."

The 'Squire caught a glimpse of her purpose.

"Constable Finn, bring the pony here," he ordered.

Rosie beckoned the Constable to her, and whispered to him: "Mr Finn stop at the house and get my riding-whip. We are going to have a circus."

In half an hour Constable Finn appeared with the pony, and the court adjourned to the pasture lot.

"Poor Dollie, how she has been abused!" Rosie said, with a vibrating voice, her tears very near. "Mr. Finn, hand me my whip, and then turn the pony loose."

The pony scampered across the lot, and then returned. Rosie stood still, the whip in her hand, all eyes resting upon her. "Here, Dollie!" she cried. "Come here, Dollie!"

The pony flung up her head, looked at Rosie, whinnied her delight, and then walked up to her and poked her in the ribs with her nose.

"Do you love me, Dollie?" she asked.

The pony nodded her head.

"How much do you love me?" Rosie asked.

The pony made no response.

"How much do you love me?" Rosie sharply repeated, with a peculiar movement of her whip.

The pony kissed her by touching her cheek with her nose.

Rosie was so overcome that she flung her arms around the pony's neck and laughed and cried hysterically. More than one sturdy man drew his sleeve across his eyes. The gypsy stared at the experiments his swarthy face growing still darker.

"Kneel, Dollie," ordered Rosie, as she swayed her whip.

Down went the pony on her knees.

"Sit up!" cried Rosie.

In a moment more the pony was on her haunches.

"Shake hands, my lady!"

The pony thrust out one foot.

"Now pray!"

In response to that the intelligent animal folded her front legs rested her head upon them, and looked comically demure.

"Get up!" was the next order.

When the pony was on all fours again, Rosie struck her lightly on one foot.

"Why, you poor child, you!" she commiseratingly said. "You are dreadful lame!"

The pony limped around, bobbed her head, and looked so dejected that everybody laughed except the gypsy. Constable Finn grinned at him, and said sarcastically:

"You must 'a' spent a power o' time larnin the pony all that ar."

The gypsy mutterd something under his breath, a baleful gleam in his eyes.

"Go away!" Rosie angrily cried to the pony, with a flirt of the whip.

The pony ran to the rear of the pasture lot and then came back at a fearful rate of speed, her mane streaming, her jaws apart, her teeth gleaming.

"Look out, girl!" several of the spectators cried, in alarm.

Rosie felt no dismay. She stood still, her arms folded, her whip in her hand.

The pony did not run her down, but stopped directly in front of her, and

whinnied and thrust out her head to be caressed.

"Mr. Finn," said Rosie, "please cover the pony's eyes, so that she can't see."

The constable did so, while Rosie walked to the fence and dropped her handkerchief. Then she came back and stroked the pony's nose.

"Dollie," she said, in a tone of deep concern, and she passed the whip three times in front of her, "I have lost my handkerchief." The pony snuffed about her dress. "It isn't in my pocked," Rosie said. "I must have dropped it somewhere. Go look for it."

The pony went around the lot found the handkerchief, picked it up, and brought it to her young mistress.

"Is the court satisfied?" asked Rosie, a quizzical look on her face.

"The court is satisfied," Squire Barlow said. "In fact, the court is overwhelmed. Rosie Watson, the pony belongs to you. Take her home; she is entirely too smart."

"But ain't I to be compensated in any way?" asked the gypsy, with a fierce scowl.

"You are getting off cheaply enough as it is," was the 'Squire's comment. "You ought to be glad she did not charge you with stealing the pony."

"Well, I'm going to give the pony goodbye, anyhow," the man said.

He stepped quickly up to the pony, grasped the halter and pressed closely to her.

But Rosie had her eyes about her. She gave a loud scream, and dealt the pony a stinging blow on the nose. The animal sprang kack, and the gypsy fell flat on his face. When he rose to his feet, he had an ugly knife in his hand.

"The coward was going to kill my pony," cried Rosie in her terror.

Stoutly built though the miscreant was, Constable Finn seized him by the collar, and shook him until his teeth chattered. The crowd surged down upon the gypsy to do him further harm; but 'Squire Barlow interfered.

"Look here, you scoundrel," he said, in great rage, "if you are not out of the township in half an hour,—your whole gang, bag and baggage, lock, stock and barrel,—you'll find yourself in the county prison. Now be sharp!"

The gypsy sneaked sullenly away, Constable Finn following closely at his heels.

The bystanders congratulated Rosie, and cheered her heartily as she vaulted, unaided, upon the bare back of the pony and rode home with it. For weeks Rosie's case before the 'Squire was the topic of conversation.—*Frank H. Stauffer, in the Interior.*

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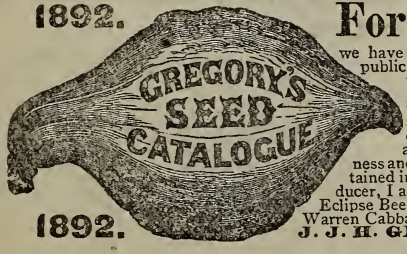
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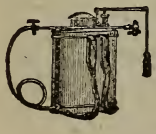


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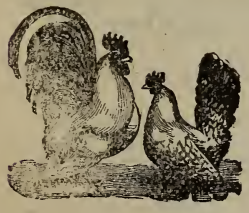
we have always had very pleasant dealings together, the public and myself, and I again have the pleasure of presenting to them my Annual Vegetable and Flower Seed Catalogue. It contains the usual immense variety of seed, with such new kinds added as have proved to be real acquisitions. Raising many of these varieties myself, on my four seed farms, and testing others, I am able to warrant their freshness and purity, under such reasonable conditions as are contained in my Catalogue. Having been their original introducer, I am headquarters for choice Cory Corn, Miller Melon, Eclipse Beet, Hubbard Squash, Deep Head, All Seasons and Warren Cabbage, Etc., Etc. Catalogue **FREE** to all.

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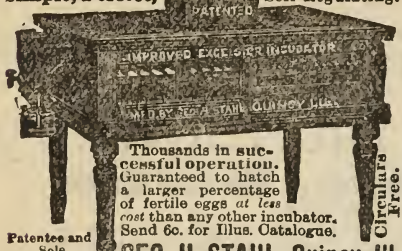
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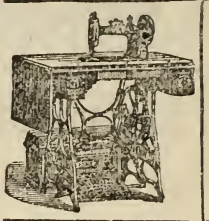
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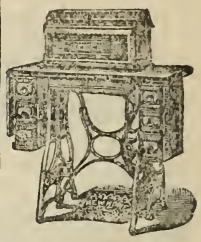


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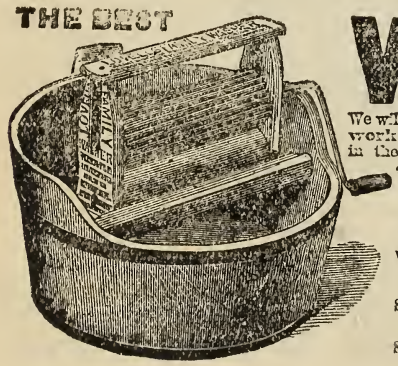
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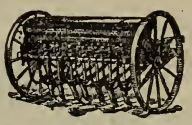


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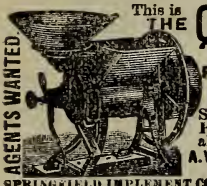
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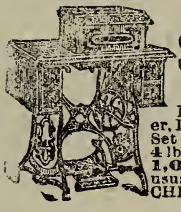
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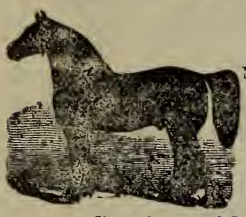
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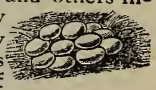
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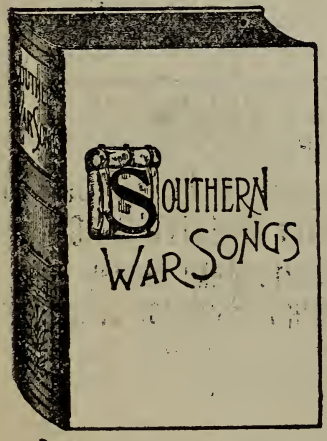
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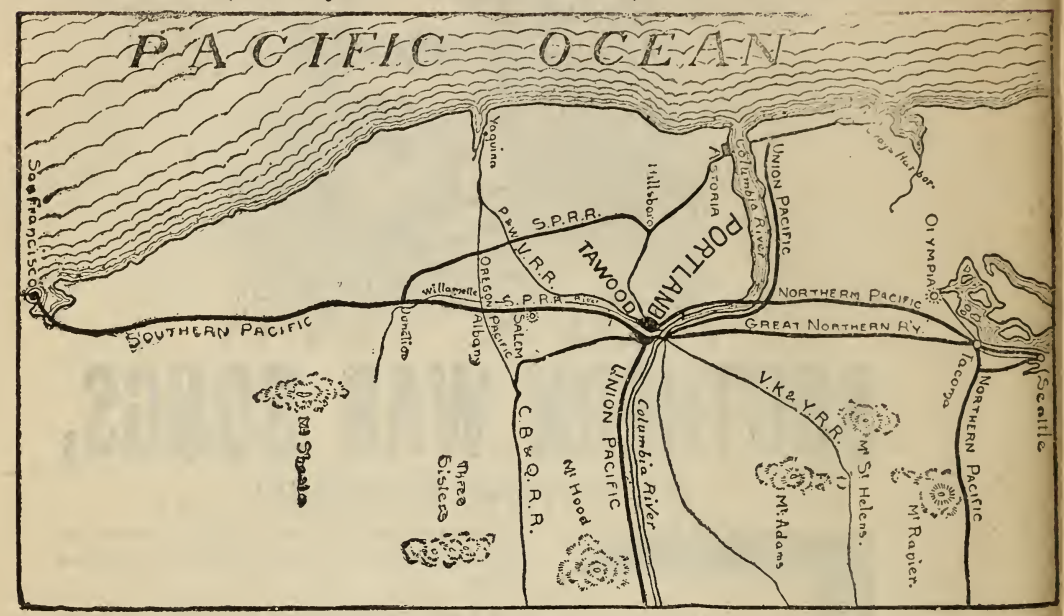
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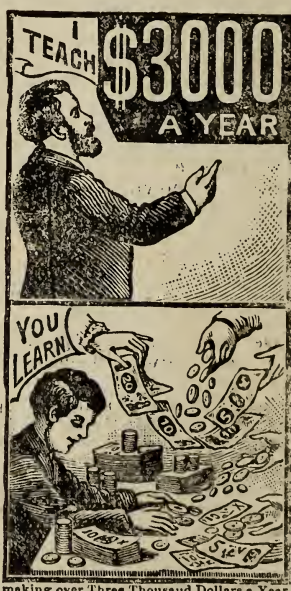
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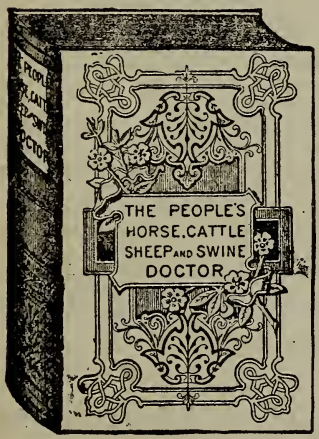


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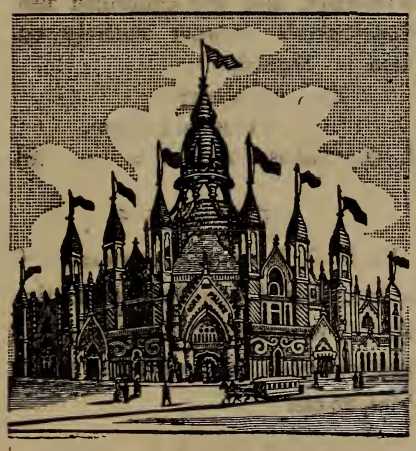
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